



Date: October 20, 2003
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Resource Advisory Councils Schedule Combined Meeting

All four of the BLM Montana/Dakotas Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) will meet in Billings, Montana, October 28-30.

The four RACs will meet jointly on October 29, 2003. The joint meeting will begin at 8 a.m. and will be held at the BLM Montana State Office, 5001 Southgate Drive. Topics to be discussed include Sustaining Working Landscapes and the Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Plan. A public comment period will be held from 1-2 p.m.

Three of the RACs will also hold individual meetings. The Central Montana RAC will meet at 5:30 p.m. on October 28, 2003, and will continue its meeting on October 30, 2003, at 8 a.m. at the BLM Montana State Office. It will discuss the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Resource Management Plan, Montana/Dakotas Off-Highway Vehicle policy priority setting, and the Blackleaf Environmental Impact Statement. A public comment period will be held at 8 a.m. on October 30, 2003.

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The Eastern Montana RAC will meet on October 30, 2003, at 8 a.m. at the BLM Montana State Office. Among its items of discussion will be coal bed natural gas development in the Powder River Basin. Its public comment period will be at 11:30 a.m.

The Western Montana RAC will meet on October 30, 2003, at 8 a.m. at the Hampton Inn, 5110 Southgate Drive, Billings, Montana. The public comment period will be at 11 a.m. Among the agenda items are the Butte Resource Management Plan (RMP) and an update on the Limestone Hills Training Area Environmental Impact Statement. The public comment period will be at 11:30 am.

The four 15-member RACs advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a variety of planning and management issue associated with public land management in Montana and the Dakotas.

For more information on the RAC meetings, contact your local BLM office.

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